proposal for expanding the UN-Security Council, making it more representative by increasing its strength from 15 to 24, including five new permanent members;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal;

(c) whether the proposal has found favour with the existing permanent members of UNSC, if so, to what extent; and

(d) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir. The President of the 51st UNGA Session in 1997, Ambassador Razali had suggested expending the size ot the Security Council from 15 to 24, including 5 new permanent members.

(b) Under Razali proposal, the Security Council was to be expanded to include 5 new permanent and 4 new non-permanent members, 5 new permanent members were to include two industrialised states and one developing country each from Asia, Africa and Latin American and the Caribbeans region.

(c) US, UK and France have supported the approach underlying Razali proposal for expansion of both permanent and non-permanent members categories, though there are differences on the issue of numbers in the expanded Council. Russia also supports expansion of permanent members category. China has called for limiting expansion only to non-permanent members category.

(d) The Government supports expansion of permanent as well as non-permanent members category to include developing countries.

Proposal to change Indian Ambassadors/ High Commissioners

933. SHRI SITARAM KESRI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to change the Indian Ambassadors/High Commissioners;

(b) whether some Ambassadors/High Commissioners have offered to resign on their own;

*(c) if so, the names of such Ambassadors/High Commissioners; and

(d) whether Government have accepted their resignations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Transfers in the normal course are an on-going process.

(b) Yes.

(c) The Ambassador in Laos Dr. S.D. Muni and the High Commissioner in London Shri Salman Haidar have offered their resignation; and

(d) Not yet.

Harrassment to Indians settled abroad

934. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indians settled abroad are being attacked and harrassed because of Indian customs being continued by them during the last five years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the compensation paid to them by the Governments of concerned countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

Indians settled abroad

935. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details about the Indians settled abroad country-wise; and